

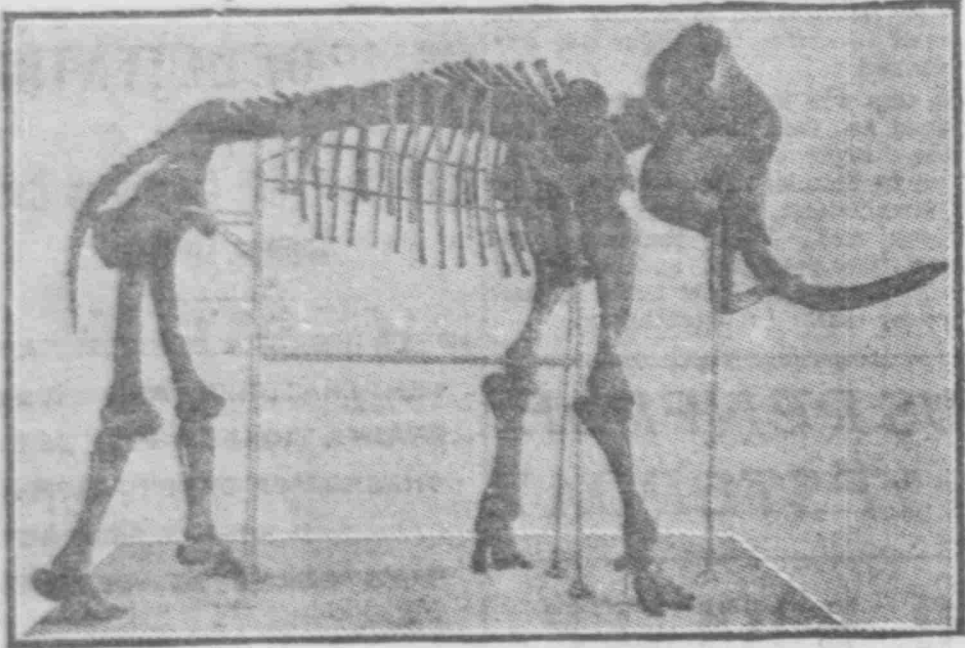
New Things Strange and Curious

FISH THAT GO OUT OF WATER.

Many fish cut a much better figure out of water than we do in it, though we are accustomed to think of them as inhabitants of the water only. For instance, there is the "stare-shout," a kind of goby that at ebb tide walks calmly upon the sand banks erect on two huge fore fins. With his gigantic goggle eyes he keeps a sharp lookout for crabs and such things as are left behind by the receding water. Then we all know that eels can wriggle, snake-like, miles across the meadows to other ponds and rivers.

In Holland carp are kept all winter hung up in a net and sprinkled only occasionally with water. The Indian "snake-head" is quite happy even when his native pond dries up, and lies torpid till the next rainy season. The flying gurnard will keep ahead of an ocean liner going at full speed, and fly for many minutes in quick successive flights of 300 yards or so at a time. So, granted that the average fish prefers water, some of them at any rate can do very well out of it.

MASTODON UNEARTHED IN SIBERIA.

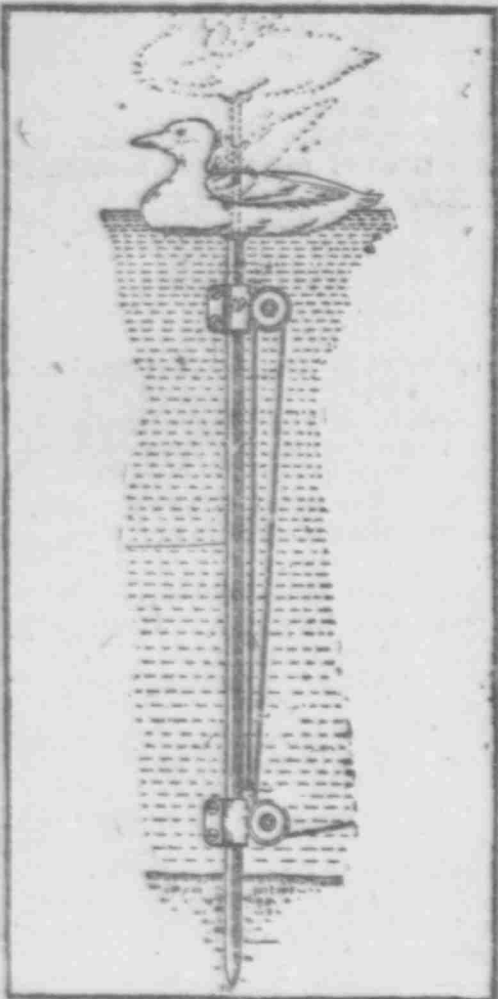


In the accompanying picture is shown a portion of a gigantic mammoth which was recently discovered in Siberia. When the news spread that a monstrous though imperfect skeleton had been unearthed by some laborers who were working under the supervision of Russian scientists steps were at once taken in St. Petersburg to have the notable relic carefully preserved and at the

same time an incalculable search for the missing portions was started. These laborers have so far produced good results. A few minor parts which have probably decayed, are still missing, but the huge skeleton is practically complete, and consequently the experts have found little difficulty in reconstructing it and giving it the appearance which the mammoth bore in life.

New Decoy Duck.

For the purpose of luring wild duck with long legs in use, but evidently there are sportsmen who are not entirely satisfied with them, as otherwise the decoy, which is shown in the accompanying picture and which is quite new, would not have been invented. A simple and ingenious device it



is. On an anchor, which is mainly composed of a tubular rod with a longitudinal slot at one side rests a decoy equipped with movable wings and with mechanism which enables it to move upward and in other respect closely imitate a real bird. Even the most wary duck, it is claimed, cannot long withstand the allurements of this new decoy, which can be used effectively in any place where sport of this kind is to be found.

CARRYING GAME COCKS.

In Mexico, Central America, the Philippines and all countries once under the domination of Spain cock fighting is an almost universal sport. When it is necessary to convey a game bird to the scene of a fight it is placed head foremost in a tapering basket,

from the wide end of which its tail feathers project. Six or a dozen or more of these baskets are fastened to a framework of wood, and the whole affair is easily carried on the back of a peon.



HERE IS INDEED A ROOF TREE.



A big elm tree growing through the roof of a barn and spreading its branches half a hundred feet above that structure is a curiosity that nearly every visitor to Kennebunk, Me., makes it a point to see. The barn is located on the old Storey estate, which was occupied many years by the family of William Parsons, father of Charles Parsons, president of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad. Years ago Mr. Parsons enlarged the barn, and not wishing to disturb the tree built around it.

Sheets of lead were laid around the great branches to prevent the roof from leaking. Lattice work, extending from the ground nearly to the eaves on the southernly side, admits air and sunshine to the trunk of this hardy elm.

Automobile Dog.

An artistic Boston terrier in correct automobile regalia was seen recently in Beacon street sitting beside his mistress with the most dignified air. Since many thousands of dollars are annually spent upon dog clothes, it is safe to say that the "motor



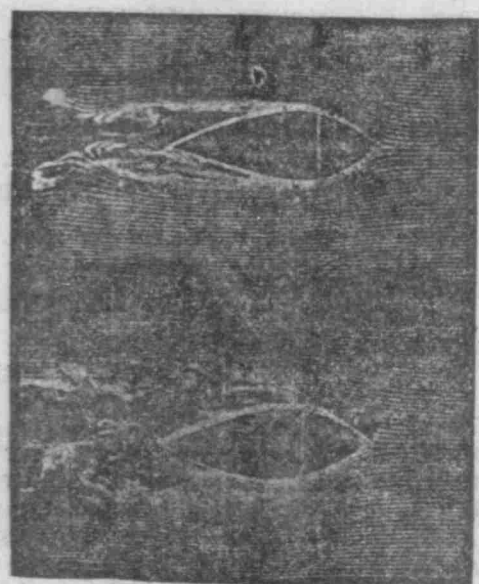
dog" arrayed in L.A. automobile coat and goggles, will soon be an everyday sight in other cities.

Aerial Bike.

An English inventor some time ago believed he had solved the problem of aerial navigation by combining the wings of a flying machine with a regular bicycle mechanism. He proved conclusively, on paper, that with this construction it would be a simple matter for a person to fly as readily as he could wheel along a country road.

Photos of Air Currents.

A distinguished French scientist, Dr. Marey, of the French Institute, has made



a painstaking investigation of currents of air by means of cinematograph photography. By an ingenious device he is able to show the direction and character of air currents and to obtain photographic records of them. The accompanying illustration shows air currents flowing past an obstacle and being broken up by it. A projection, however, slight, causes the currents to be greatly disturbed.

Acrobatic Terrier.

Dogs as a rule are not distinguished as acrobats. It is not unusual, however, for dogs to work their way by mere merit to lucrative positions in the circuses and then



ters. The English terrier Tiny, here shown, is a natural acrobat. She loves nothing better than to ride on the broad back of a canine friend.

The deepest well in the world is situated in the village of Spetensberg about twenty miles from Berlin. It has a depth of 4,194 feet. The largest pair of shoes ever manufactured for actual wear in America were made by a firm of shoemakers at Rockland, Mass. The size is labeled "17," and they are nearly sixteen inches long.

GREATEST OF STONE CARVINGS.



This statue, as the photograph clearly indicates, is one of the greatest carvings in the world. It is one of the most noted figures of Buddha and is known as the Stone Buddha. The top of the head is nearly seventy feet above the stone foundation,

but, as will be noted, the proportions are excellent considering the colossal dimensions of the figure. It forms one of a group carved of sandstone which exists in great bluffs near the Yang-tze River, in North China, and, according to scientists, is nearly fifteen hundred years old. It is supposed to have been carved during the reign of the famous Emperor Wen Cheng-di. It is among the wonders of Asia, but owing to the isolated locality where it is situated is visited by but few tourists.

SUBMARINE MAIL CARRIERS.

While steamer Benalder was crossing the Mediterranean some months ago, on her way to China, the captain threw overboard a package containing twelve old letters, and now the news comes that the package has been found again and in a most extraordinary place. Some Spanish fishermen recently hauled in their nets and one of them discovered that he had caught a splendid fish, which was remarkably fat. Surprised at its unusual size, he summoned his companions

and straightway they opened the fish and found in it the package of letters. What to do with them they knew not, but finally they forwarded them to the Mayor of Algiers. He pored over them in the hope of discovering some clue as to their rightful owner, but the writing was illegible on all of them except one, and as that was addressed to Captain Potter, of the Benalder, of London, he placed the package in the hands of the British Consul and the latter promptly sent it to the Captain.

NEW JERSEY'S WHISTLING CHOIR.



Several choirmasters have endeavored, with more or less success, to introduce whistling into the church service, but the Rev. P. W. Bilderback, pastor of the Fourth Methodist Episcopal Church, of Millville, N. J., is the first divine to organize a full choir of thirty whistlers who conduct the entire song service. The Rev. Mr. Bilderback, coming unexpectedly upon a group of boys who had arrived early for a choir practice, found them whistling "Nearer, My God, to Thee"

in perfect harmony. "Fine, boys," he exclaimed heartily; "that's something like music! What do you say to our organizing a full whistling choir?" All agreed enthusiastically and as the newcomers arrived they were told of the plan. The choirster entered heartily into the scheme and work was at once commenced upon a whistling service which was destined to astonish and charm the Millville congregation.

Napoleon on the Stage.

According to Herr Gaehtgens, who has just published a book on the subject, no less than forty-six plays in which Napoleon I. is the leading character have already been written in Germany. Kotzebue wrote four of them, and Herr Gaehtgens does not fail to point out that they are exceedingly dull and tiresome. In seven melodramas Napoleon's life with Josephine is depicted, and in five others the love affairs of the famous conqueror are the main subject of interest. Finally there are other melodramas in which the action is confined to St. Helena. Among the modern authors who have written such works are Karl Bleibtreu, Herman Bahr and Richard Voss.

There are also seven real historical dramas, in which the poets have tried to portray the figure of Napoleon in all its grandeur. The best of these, says Herr Gaehtgens, is the play by Grabbe, which was produced at Frankfurt in 1831. The author in this case succeeded in drawing a faithful portrait of his hero, except in one respect: Napoleon, as is well known, was not a man of many words, yet Grabbe's hero is constantly talking. The author also, as is manifest, blundered seriously in trying to represent charges of cavalry on the stage.

The most absurd of all the German plays in which Napoleon figures are, according to Herr Gaehtgens, the nine melodramas in which Queen Louise of Prussia occupies a leading place, and the reason why they are ridiculous and worthless is because in them Napoleon is represented as an ignorant parvenu and Queen Louise as the embodiment of nobility and dignity.

Strange Prediction.

In 1849, according to the German newspapers, Frederick William, who was then King of Prussia, consulted a fortune teller, and here is the extraordinary prediction which she made to him:—

"We are now in the year 1849," she said, "and if, beginning at the right, you place under each other in a vertical column the numerals which make up this number, 1849, you will find the year in which your kingdom will become a great empire. That year will be 1871. Now perform the same operation with 1871 and you will arrive at 1888, which is the date of the first Emperor's death. Finally treat 1888 in the same manner and you will obtain 1913, this being the year in which the empire will be overthrown and a republic proclaimed."

Here is the way in which she obtained the three notable years:—

1849	1871	1888
1	1	1
8	8	8
4	7	8
9	1	8

Her predictions as regards two of the years have come true and superstitious persons are now wondering if 1913 will really prove quite as fatal a year for the German Empire as she has prophesied.

Oldest of Dolls.

Here is the picture of one of the oldest dolls in existence. It was exhumed in Egypt, having been buried with the child to whom it belonged, as was the custom three and four thousand years ago. Dolls like this were eleven hundred years old when the Babe of Bethlehem was born. They were flat wooden dolls, covered with rude carvings. There were never any hands, only arms at



the elbow. There were no features to speak of, only wide apart, staring eyes, that look like holes in a blanket.

These ancient dolls are pathetic in a way, when one remembers that they were dearly beloved and as tenderly cherished by the children of the Pharaohs as are the bejeweled and dainty dolls of today, and then to think how long they have outlasted the little ones to whom they were so dear!

During the last century war caused the death of more than thirty million civilized men.

"SQUIRTING" MUSIC.

A. E. Wheeler, of Geneva, N. Y., has recently invented a music squirting hose, which is capable of distributing music to any considerable distance. Already twenty families are being entertained by his nightly concerts a hundred miles away, and all at the same time, every note reaching the ear distinctly. There is about sixty feet of ordinary rubber tubing, one end being attached to the diaphragm of a photograph machine and the other end to the transmitter of the telephone. Mr. Wheeler has succeeded in getting the sound into the transmitter of the telephone in such a way that the harsh effect on the other end of the wire is entirely eliminated.

